

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) including an endless conveyor band (4) extending through an inclined portion (6), a first and a second turnaround portions (8) and a return portion (5) of an endless path and comprising a plurality of steps (10) connected to and driven by a step chain (12), the steps (10) comprising a step roller (18), the people conveyor (2) further including a step roller track (20) for guiding the step roller (18), the step roller track (20) extends along the path of the conveyor band (4) and has an inner and an outer rails (24,22) for supporting the step roller (18), and a device (30) for restraining the step roller (18) against one of the inner and outer rails (24,22), the restraining device (30) is mounted to the step (10) or to a connecting axle (70) which connects one chain link (64) on one side of the conveyor band (4) with one chain link (64) on the other side of the conveyor band (4) so as to move together with the step (10).

2. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 1, wherein such restraining device (30) comprises an elastic biasing member (40) for elastically biasing the step roller (18) against one of the inner and outer rails (24,22).

3. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the restraining device (30) is adapted for allowing a gradual transition of the step roller (18) from one of the inner and outer rails (24,22) to the other one from inner and outer rails (24,22) in any of the first and second turnaround portions (8).

4. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the restraining device (30) is arranged between the step (10) and the drive chain (12).

5. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein one drive chain (12) is arranged at each lateral edge of the conveyor band (4), wherein each step chain (12) comprises a plurality of chain links (64) and wherein a connecting axle (70) connects one chain link (64) on one side of the conveyor band (4) with one chain link (64) on the other side of the conveyor band (4), and wherein the restraining device (30) is arranged between the step (10) and the connecting axle (70).

6. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 5, wherein the restraining device (30) comprises a torsion spring (76) attached to the connecting axle (70) and supported thereto with one of the free ends (78) of such spring (76) and having the second free end (80) thereof arranged so as to engage the step (10).

7. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the restraining device (30) is arranged between the step (10) and the step roller track (20).

8. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 7, wherein the restraining device (30) comprises a supplementary roller (50) and a biasing means (40) for biasing the supplementary roller (50) against one rail (22, 24) of the step roller track (29).

9. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 8, wherein the step roller (18) is attached to the step (10) by a connecting arm (16) and wherein the supplementary roller (50) is supported by the connecting arm (16).

10. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the biasing means (40) biases the supplementary roller (50) against the outer rail (22).

11. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to ~~any of claims 8 to 10~~, wherein the biasing means is a linear spring having a first leg (42) and a second leg (44) being bent with respect to each other by a predetermined angle, further comprising a supporting block (32) at the support arm (16), the supporting block (32) comprising a first and second recesses (34,36) each portion of the first and second legs of the linear spring being respectively fitted to the first and second recesses (34,36) to thereby limit deformation of the first and second legs (42,44) of the linear spring to a predetermined range.

12. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 11, further comprising a cover (38) mounted to the supporting block (32) to prevent the first and second legs (42,44) of the linear spring from being separated from the first and second recesses (34,36) of the supporting block (32).

13. (Currently Amended) People conveyor (2) according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~, further comprising a member (52) for supporting the supplementary roller (50), the member (52) having a recess (53) in which a portion adjacent to the junction between the first and second legs (42,44) of the linear spring is fitted, and a cover (54) which covers the recess (53) of the member (52).